



GOOD WORKS

Bi-monthly Publication of
The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches
of Metropolitan Detroit

Springtime in the City

As a New Season Arrives, Let the
Holy Spirit Enliven You!



MAY - JUNE 2015



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

"Only in this life can you do good. What is awaiting you in the future life is not the opportunity of doing good but the reward of having done it."

- St Augustine of Hippo

It was a busy beginning to the New Year with Great Lent and Vespers, organizing an Orthodox directory, and renewing the Detroit Orthodox Radio program to mention only a few.

As you may not be aware at this time, we have a committee working hard to organize weekly shows to renew the Orthodox Radio Program. The renewed program is called "Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio" (DOOR). We will broadcast from WNZK 690 am on Sundays between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. There will be weekly themes featuring educational segments and music. Opportunities to purchase airtime will also be available. Individuals and/or parishes can become sponsors to open and close our weekly programs. There will also be opportunities to advertise special events, festivals or landmark anniversaries.

We are working hard to make this both an educational and entertaining program. We hope you will participate with questions sponsorships and advertisements. Become a part of the program and make this your program.

There are a host of areas where we could use your support: Orthodox views on current issues, Book of the month, Exploring the Bible, Church music, Entertainment to name a few. I hope you will give serious thought to helping make this program exciting.

We are continuing to collect contact information for Orthodox businesses and professionals. Make sure that

you submit your information by the end of June. Will begin printing and binding them. Once it is printed, we will distribute it to each of our homes as a reference offering us an opportunity to support our Orthodox friends first, wherever possible. Please email me at president@coccdetroit.org and submit your information before the end of June.

Our Church School Ministry will soon be having a workshop for teachers. It promises to be very informative, focusing on teaching techniques and lesson planning. All teachers will want to attend this workshop. Watch for more information that will be forth coming this summer.

The COCC functions by means of monthly meetings of representatives of our member parishes. The meetings are held at 7:00 PM, usually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Priests and two delegates from each member parish are encouraged to participate, and we are happy to welcome new parish representatives and observers. If your parish is not already an active member, please encourage your priest and parish council to participate.

There is so much to do and we can use your talents. If you read something that interests you, please contact me, Richard Shebib at 248-345-9346 or president@coccdetroit.org.

Richard J Shebib

COCC President

PS- If you would be interested in helping keep records of our work please contact me.

(CLERGY & PARISHES)...

We kindly reminded to submit your 2015 COCC membership contribution to our treasurer as soon as possible. Also, each priest is reminded to please appoint and send two representatives as liaisons to and from your community to our monthly meetings. We need your physical and financial support. Thank you!



OUR MISSION

"Go forth and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and Lo, I AM with you always, even unto the end of time." (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit is a cooperative organization of clergy and laity established in 1957. Our mission is to promote the Faith through worship, fellowship, charity, education, and outreach.

The devotion of all who serve and support us allows our witness of faith in Detroit to continue into the future.

THE COCC EXECUTIVE BOARD

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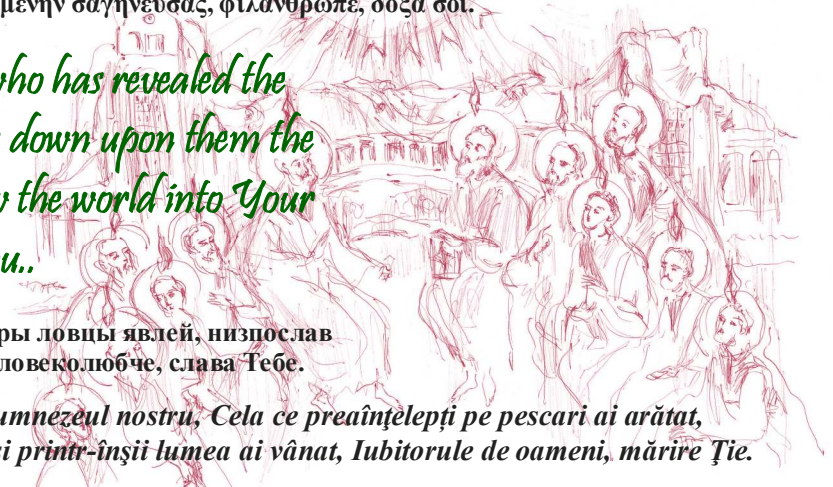
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Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας, φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Blessed are You O Christ Our God who has revealed the fishermen to be most wise; by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them You drew the world into Your net, O Lover of mankind glory to You..

Благословен еси, Христе Боже наш, Иже премудры ловцы явлей, низпослав им Духа Святаго, и теми уловлей вселенную, Человеколюбче, слава Тебе.

Binecuvântat ești, Hristoase, Dumnezeuul nostru, Căla ce preaînțelepți pe pescari ai arătat, trimițându-le lor Duhul Sfânt, și printr-înșii lumea ai vânat, Iubitorule de oameni, mărire Ție.



+ FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

And so, after all the fuss and effort, it's now passed.

We had just celebrated the Lord's Nativity and His Baptism in the Jordan River, Theophany; the coming of the Savior into the world, His Incarnation, the beginning of His public ministry of teaching. It seemed that we were barely able to catch our breath, and as if unexpectedly our Mother the Church began preparing us for the coming of Great Lent!



We heard Gospel lessons about Zacchaeus climbing a tree just to see this "Jesus of Nazareth"; the Publican and Pharisee, two good men in the temple with different attitudes toward their spiritual lives (who we would call fellow parishioners on any given Sunday morning); how we will be judged on whether we loved everyone; etc. These were all to prepare us, to remind us of how we had to make adjustments in our own lives.

Then came the Great Lent and the Holy Week of the Lord's Passion with intensified fasting, particularly solemn services, admonishment to "do better", to give more. Ah, then came the unforgettably glorious Pascha when the Light of the Risen Christ shattered the (Midnight) darkness of the world... Then, the Lord's Ascension in order to prepare a place for us at the Father's side... and finally, the Descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of fire and wind, Pentecost.

It's always good to look back to where we've been. All those days were, for those who immersed themselves into

the ascetic life of the Church, who tried to be more faithful, who made the effort to grow in their understanding and practice of their faith, those weeks and months were challenging, yet joyful, perhaps difficult but invigorating.

And so, after all the fuss and effort seem to be passed, now what? Now that we've returned to what the Church calls normal time, the time after Pentecost, now what?

Beloved, all that the Church did for us from those preparatory Sundays before Lent until today, the time after Pentecost, all she ever does is lead us on our way, she guides us in "the Way" of Jesus Christ who is "the Way" of life as God intends for us, the Way that promises true, everlasting Life, joy beyond our capacity to understand or imagine. She, as the Lord Himself, never forces us. She wants us to "RECEIVE THE LIGHT!" in order to LIVE IN THE LIGHT of Christ, to PASS THE LIGHT of Christ to others. Our children and other family members, our friends and those we've never met before also need to see the Light we received, with all its joy, peace, love, and forgiveness. Isn't that what we sing at every Divine Liturgy, that "We have seen the true Light. We have received the heavenly Spirit.?"

Beloved, it's not a question of "now what". It's a matter of whether we ourselves have taken it all seriously, if it has made any difference in our lives. If so, then we need to go out into the world around us, as apostles on a mission, to let the burning Light of Christ be seen and received by others.

Fr Lawrence Lazar

President of the Detroit Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood
Spiritual Advisor to the COCC

*"Blessed are You O
Christ Our God who
has revealed the
fishermen to be most
wise; by sending
down upon them the
Holy Spirit..."*



The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

PENTECOST

**O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
who are present everywhere, fulfilling all things;
the Treasury of Blessings and source of Life,
come and abide in us and cleanse us from all stain
and save our souls, O Good One.**

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

This great Feast of the Church is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom on the Sunday that is the fiftieth day after the celebration of Pascha. The Liturgy is conducted on the day of the Feast, and is preceded the evening before by a Great Vespers service and on the morning of the Feast by the Matins service. On the day of the Feast a Vespers service is served, usually just after the main Liturgy, that includes the kneeling prayers. These prayers mark the beginning of the practice of kneeling during the Liturgy at the time when the holy gifts of bread and wine are consecrated as the body and blood of Christ. The practice of kneeling has been suspended during the Paschal season. On the Monday following the Feast, the Divine Liturgy is conducted in commemoration of the All-holy and Life-creating and All-powerful Spirit, Who is God, and One of the Trinity, and of one honor and one essence and one glory with the Father and the Son (From the Synaxarion of the Feast).

(adapted from www.goarch.org)

HOLY EMPEROR CONSTANTINE & HIS MOTHER HELEN | May 21

This renowned sovereign of Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (ruler of the westernmost parts of the Roman empire), and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord appeared to him in a dream and declared the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. On October 28 he attacked and conquered Maxentius, who drowned in the Tiber River while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East. Because of him all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown.

In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred to Constantinople from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism, according to Eusebius, and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337, on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were transferred to Constantinople and were deposited in the Church of the Holy Apostles, which had been built by him.

As for his holy mother Helen (Elena), after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified (see September 13 and 14).

After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into



Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.

*Icon pictured (enamel and gold relief):
from the iconostas of the Patriarchal Cathedral of
Sts Constantine & Elena, Bucharest, Romania*



heaven, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased’” (Matthew 3:14-15). The main hymn of the feast of Theophany explains this event: “When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who has revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.”

We bless ourselves with the sign of the cross saying, “Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.” The words “and to the” in this doxology are there for a reason. The Holy Trinity is a relationship between three divine Persons (the words “and to the” preserves this distinction) Who are united by divine Love. We can, in a simple way, think of the phrase, ‘and to the’ as the love that unites the three Persons. The biblical verse, “God is Love” (1 John 4:8), is very profound.

God is not a mathematical “one”—if He were, He would not be Love, but would be the opposite of love. We know this from our own human experience—when we are alone with no one to relate to it is not good—in fact, it often is hell. God Himself said after creating Adam, “It is not good for Adam to be alone” (Genesis 1:26). Human beings have been created in the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity. God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness (Genesis 1:26) and not “Let me make man in my image according to my

likeness.” Since the Godhead is a plurality of divine Persons of the same divine nature, God has created human beings as male and female—a plurality of persons of the same human nature. “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them” (Genesis 1:27)

In the Old and New Testaments the term “God” generally refers to the Person of the Father (except in a few cases where “God” is used in the generic sense of divinity—such is the case with John 1:1, “And the Word was God”). We can, therefore, substitute the term “Father” for most places where “God” is found in the Bible. When we do this we can see more clearly the relationships between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. For instance, we often read and hear the term “Son of God.” This term, therefore, means “Son of the Father” and clearly shows a relationship between the Father and the Son. When we read “God’s Son” we can render it as “the Father’s Son.” When we read “God’s Spirit” we can render it as “the Father’s Spirit.” All these terms, as well as “Spirit of the Son,” are biblical and show the relationship between the Persons of the Holy Trinity.

Understanding

THE HOLY TRINITY

By ROBERT LATSKO (PART I of II)

This essay on the Holy Trinity by the author is based on seminary study with Fr. Thomas Hopko. Pentecost / Trinity Sunday is dedicated to the Feast of the Holy Trinity (called “Troitse” in Russian and Ukrainian) and the second day, Spirit Monday, celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

Orthodox Christians believe in and worship the Holy Trinity. After receiving Holy Communion we boldly exclaim, “We have found the true Faith.... worshipping the undivided Trinity, Who has saved us.” Even though the term “Holy Trinity” is not found in the Bible, the Holy Trinity is biblical — all the books of the New Testament (and some of the books of the Old Testament) speak about the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity was manifested for the first time in a clear way when Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist. “And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from

“NO ONE PERSON OF THE TRINITY EVER ACTS ALONE WITHOUT THE CONSENT AND ACTION OF THE OTHERS, BECAUSE THEY ALL SHARE THE SELF-SAME DIVINE WILL.”

The term “God the Father” is biblical, but the terms “God the Son” and “God the Holy Spirit” are NOT. Many people, many of whom pride themselves on their knowledge of the Bible, use the terms “God the Father,” “God the Son,” and “God the Holy Spirit” when speaking of the Holy Trinity. This is WRONG because the relationships between the divine Persons (which is essential in our Orthodox Christian understanding of the Holy Trinity) are destroyed and the temptation to think of God in terms of “Modalism” becomes present. “Modalism” is the ancient heresy that said that the one God expresses Himself in three different ways. This heresy says that God the Father can shift into a different “mode” and express Himself as God the Son or God the Holy Spirit at different times.

The terms, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not terms which a patriarchal (male dominated) society has pinned on God, but rather are terms which God has given us as being most appropriate to express the reality of what is happening in the Trinitarian Godhead. We cannot substitute “inclusive language” terms such as “Mother” and “Daughter” or “Creator” [for “Father”], “Redeemer” [for “Son”], and “Sanctifier” [for “Spirit”], because these terms lead to a false understanding of the relationships between the three divine Persons.

Every action of God is a Trinitarian action. No one Person of the Trinity ever acts alone without the consent and action of the others, because they all share the self-same Divine Will. A good example of this is the creation of the universe. The Father is not the Creator alone. He creates by means of His Son (His Word) and Spirit. “In the beginning, God [the Father] created the heavens and earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God [the Holy Spirit] was moving over the face of the waters. And God said [God’s Word], ‘Let there be light’; and there was light” (Genesis 1:1-3). St. Paul made it clear that the Son was involved in creation when he wrote, “All things were created through Him [the Son] and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16-17).

Although the Father is the Source (Principle or Cause) of the Son and the Holy Spirit, He alone has always been “Father.” There was never a time when the Father was “alone in His divinity” without His Son and Spirit. There was never a time when the Son was not (this is the heresy of “Arianism”), and there was never a time when the Spirit was not. The Holy Trinity simply exists and always has existed. The Old Testament name for God, “I Am,” expresses this (see Exodus 3:14). The Trinity is not the result of a process—God does not change and cannot “improve.” Human beings, on the other hand, have been created to change “from one degree of glory to another” (2 Corinthians 3:18) and to become “perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

The Holy Trinity is eternal, where “eternal” is understood to mean existence in “timelessness” and “spacelessness.” Time and space are created entities and God does not need them to exist. Because God created time and space, He is not constrained by them. The Creator is stronger than His creation—and this is why God can see

the past, present and future all at once and can be everywhere “at the same time.”

The Son of God is eternally born of the Father (we use the biblical term “begotten” to refer to this: John 1:14) and the Spirit eternally comes forth from the Father (we use the biblical term “proceeds” to refer to this: John 15:26). We cannot use the term “begotten” to refer to the manner in which the Spirit comes forth from the Father because that would wrongly imply that the Father has two Sons.

We often hear the phrase “one in essence” in our Church. We say every Sunday when we recite/sing the Nicene Creed that the Son of God is “of one essence with the Father.” We also sing every Sunday the hymn, “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.” This phrase, “one in essence,” is the English translation of the Greek word “homoousios,” which is a theological term developed by the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (at Nicaea in 325 A.D.) to express how the Son is exactly what the Father is. The Son of God is “true God of true God” as we say in the Nicene Creed. The Son is exactly what the Father is in terms of His divine attributes and divine Nature, but He is not Him! The only difference is that the Father is the Father, and the Son is the Son, and the Spirit is the Spirit! Note that Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, is not only “homoousios” with the Father, but He is also “homoousios” with us! Jesus Christ is both fully divine and fully human (He is therefore the “God-Man”).

Because the Son of God is “of one essence with the Father,” Jesus Christ can say, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30) and “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). All the attributes relative to the Father’s being belong also to the Son. Jesus Christ “is the likeness of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and we can see “the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6). The Son is the radiance of the Father’s glory. The Son is God’s perfect self-expression—God’s Life, God’s Power, God’s Word, God’s Wisdom, etc. “Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24).

About the author:

Reader **Robert Joseph Latsko** (Bob) is a tonsured Reader and a graduate of St Vladimir’s Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree. He also has a Bachelors of Science in Engineering from Michigan State University and a second Bachelors and Masters degrees in Architecture from the University of Michigan. His specialty is Orthodox Church architecture, where he combines his knowledge of Orthodox theology and of architecture to design Orthodox churches that fully reflect Orthodox teachings and tradition. A tonsured Reader, Bob has been a member of St Innocent Church in Redford for some fifteen years, where he sings in the choir and chants.

PART II will be published in Good Works (July-August, 2015)

**Take me
out to the
Ballgame...**
in a Suite!



WIN A GAME SUITE!

Enter our 2nd Annual Drawing for a chance to win a beautiful suite for one night when the Detroit Tigers® take on the Cleveland Indians®, **Friday night, September 4, 2015** (7:00pm) for 20 guests of your choice!

Prize (\$4,000 value) includes:

- ◆ Diamond-level private suite at Comerica Park
- ◆ 20 (suite level) game tickets
- ◆ Third-base line indoor & outdoor seating
- ◆ In-suite food buffet (customize your menu!)
- ◆ 3 stadium-deck parking passes & direct access
- ◆ Fireworks show after the game!



\$100 donation

Help us raise much needed funds for the efforts and charitable works of the COCC!

No more than 150 tickets sold! Must be 18 to enter. Need not be present to win. Tickets on sale thru August 10. Drawing: August 11, 2015 (8pm).

Call 248 345-9346 today!

*Sponsored by the Council of Orthodox
Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit*

DETROIT'S ORTHODOX Ethnic FESTIVALS

Bring a friend and check out some of the wonderful cultural showcases of our community!

June 6: **Romanian-American Heritage Festival**
Sts Peter & Paul Church, Dearborn Hts | www.spproc.org

June 5-7: **Ya'soo Greek Festival**
St Nicholas Church, Ann Arbor | www.stnickaa.org

June 11-14: **Michigan Sahara Fun Fest**
St Mary Basilica, Livonia | www.stmarylivonia.com

June 19-21: **Greek Festival**
Assumption Church, Grand Blanc | www.flintorthodox.com

June 26-28: **Opa!Fest**
St Nicholas Church, Troy | www.stnicholastro.org

August 20-23: **Assumption Greek Fest**
Assumption Church, St Clair Shores | www.goassumption.org

August 23: **Greek Festival**
St George Church, Southgate | www.stgeorge.mi.goarch.org

August 28-30: **A Taste of Greece**
Nativity of Mary Church, Plymouth | www.nativitygochurch.org

September 11-13: **Ya'ssoo Greek Festival**
St George Church, Bloomfield Hills | www.stgeorge-bh.org

September 12-13: **Romanian Festival of Greater Detroit**
St George Cathedral, Southfield | www.sgroc.org

If your parish hosts a Festival we'd love to share the news with our readers and help support it! Let us know!

Check out the updated

www.coccdetroit.org



GET CONNECTED!

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ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT SINGS OHIO BENEFIT

By Paula Kappos, Zoe President

Saturday, May 2, 2015, is a day that will live in the memories of supporters of **ZOE for Life!** for years to come. On that day, the Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit traveled to St. Mary Romanian Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio, to share their awe inspiring music.

Under the unquestionably masterful direction of (Matushka) Victoria Kopistiansky, these extraordinary voices lifted us all spiritually. "Let us lift up our hearts", as our clergy pray in the Divine Liturgy. The choir shared sacred hymns in several

different languages, but their celestial delivery overcame all barriers. Their music spoke to our hearts. Their voices were so joyful and pure, that listening to them one imagined that Heaven itself must be filled with such loving and tender hymns of praise to our Almighty God. We are still enraptured by the warm cocoon of adoration they created.

This is the first time this choir has traveled outside of greater Detroit. The choir gave up many hours of rehearsal, and their entire day on Saturday, to support our life saving work. One even left her husband in Washington, DC, to sing for us!

Like ZOE for Life!, the Orthodox Choir of Detroit is comprised of members from many jurisdictions. They are a stunningly beautiful example of how God can be praised more powerfully, and His message can be shared more broadly.

Many thanks must be given to Fr Remus Grama, Fr Ionel Satnoianu, Dn Nick Neagoe and parishioners. They graciously opened their parish and hearts to us, even preparing a lovely reception following the concert.

We will always be grateful to the Orthodox Choir of Detroit for traveling to Cleveland to benefit ZOE for Life! The concert was unquestionably a stellar event, and one that we will all cherish.

Christ is risen! The night was a brotherly gift from us, the Church of metropolitan Detroit to you, the Church of Northeast Ohio, for the benefit of Zoe. We hope everyone enjoyed the experience.

- Fr Laurence Lazar,
COCC Spiritual Advisor



ZOE
FOR LIFE!

www.zoeforlifeonline.org



DETROIT'S OWN ORTHODOX RADIO

It is with great enthusiasm that the Council of Orthodox Churches (COCC) announces the return of an Orthodox Christian Radio program to the greater Detroit region!

nationally to the Detroit Orthodox Community for their efforts. Unfortunately, funding eventually fell short and the program was cancelled.

Recently, through the due diligence of COCC President Richard Shebib with committee, the hope of renewing our radio presence has once again come to light. Several meetings and planning sessions resulted in a proposal that was presented to the COCC meeting of February 2015. The Council looked favorably on the plan and gave it unanimous endorsement, committing funds for the first 3 months of programming! Following the meeting, a generous donor came forward, being moved with excitement by the presentation, and committed another month worth of funds!

Our managing committee includes: Richard Shebib, Fr Dimitrie Vincent, Snezana Milutinovic, Jim Badeen, Karen Todorov, John Lazar, and Tom Rosco. We are looking to ex-

pand this volunteer staff, especially with those who have experience in broadcasting, marketing, sales, media, etc.

The scope of the program continues to evolve, but what is certain is that it will be of professional quality and beneficial to all who listen, whether Orthodox or not! Both Metropolitan Nicholas and Archbishop Nathaniel have endorsed and blessed our work, so now we look to YOU for assistance, financial and physical, to support Detroit Orthodox Radio that will air Sundays 5:00pm-6:00pm on WNZK 690AM. The program will also be streamed live online (www.birach.com/wnzk.html). With God's help, we can make this a true Inter-Orthodox effort for our parishes and the entire city!

The first program will air on PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015 — so mark your calendars, please pray for our success and be sure to tune in — the DOOR is open!

SUNDAYS: 5:00-6:00PM
690AM

DETROIT'S STATION OF NATIONS!

The first incarnation of "The Orthodox Hour" was aired in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The program was 30 minutes in the English language, hosted by Fr Leonte Copacia and later for a short time by Fr Dusan Koprivica. (An hour time-slot was split with the Romanian Orthodox Deanery of Michigan that had a 30 minute Romanian language program each week.) The program was well received by listeners and gave a good name

- *Affordable Advertising Space and Sponsorship Opportunities Available!*
- *Contributors, Input and Segment Producers needed!*

CONTACT US TODAY: 248 345-9346 or staff@DOORradio.org



DINNER-DANCE RAISES FUNDS THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit [COCC] sponsored its annual "Spring Celebration" dinner-dance at the banquet hall of Saint Michael the Archangel Church in Redford on Sunday, April 26, 2015.



The event began with a social hour and was followed by a delicious buffet dinner provided by Stefan's Banquets. Approximately 160 attendees enjoyed dancing to traditional ethnic and American music by the Off-beats, and children were entertained by a talented balloon artist. Everyone also enjoyed sweets from a bountiful candy table.



After a warm welcome and introductions by emcee John E Lazar, the raffles took place. Several prizes were awarded to the lucky winners. Gifts were donated by various individuals and businesses, including Hilltop Party Store in Hartland and www.LogosCreations.com. A commemorative booklet (compiled by Mary Ann Dadich and designed by JE Lazar), containing ads and congratulatory messages from businesses and individuals across the region, was also distributed.

Thanks to the generous support of all the participants, the committee is happy to announce that approximately \$4000 was raised for the benefit of our retired clergy and widowed clergy wives.

Special thanks go to chairwoman Mihaela Charlier, assisted by Richard Shebib, as well as the clergy and faithful of the host parish, St Michael the Archangel, together with their catering staff. We look forward to another wonderful event again next year! - *participant*

DIRECTORY OF ORTHODOX CHURCHES, BUSINESSES & SERVICES BEING PLANNED

Attention: Doctors, Mechanics, Tutors, Lawyers, Restaurants, House Cleaners, Photographers, Salesmen, and others... A Directory of Orthodox Businesses and Services from around the Detroit region is being created, and we want YOU to have a FREE listing! This is a first-time project that is long overdue, but is sure to be a benefit.



So, if you are an Orthodox Christian and have a business or profession that would like to benefit from our city-wide effort, simply return this completed form to us before JUNE 30! Mail your form to:

COCC DIRECTORY
c/o 18405 W 9 Mile Rd,
Southfield MI 48075

You can also email president@coccdetroit.org and include the requested information at the right.



Inaugural Edition
**DIRECTORY OF ORTHODOX
BUSINESSES & SERVICES**
(please print clearly)

Business Name _____

Type of Business / Service Offered _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website _____

Owner / Principal Agent

Name _____

Parish Affiliation Name _____

City _____

THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

The Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit has brought an essential aspect of our Faith to the region with its beautiful music. The ensemble is composed in mixed voice (SATB) from parishes across the city, and is regarded as one of the finest such ensembles in the US. The Vesper Choir is a more loosely organized group that leads responses at the annual Sunday Lenten series. The choir also rehearses more intensely to prepare for concerts and other events as needed. The repertoire includes many composers, from traditional Byzantine and ancient melodies, to modern-day Americans. (Matushka) Victoria Kopistiansky is the musical director, and **Elizabeth Star (734 306-1486 | starelizab-eth70@gmail.com)** is the COCC liaison. New singers are always welcome!

FOCUS MOTOR CITY

FOCUS North America is a national movement, founded by Orthodox Christians united in faith, and joined by others, with a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America. As

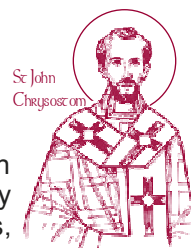
an expression of Christ's love we serve the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and imprisoned by providing Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter. We bring communities, parishes, and partners together in hands-on activities – uniting giver and the underserved -to help transform all of our lives and break the cycle of poverty that afflicts so many in our society, by moving them from dependency to self-sufficiency. A 501c3 nonprofit, services are provided without discrimination of any kind. We do not require any faith commitment from anyone we help. We have a deep belief in the sanctity and dignity of each person we serve and we welcome partnerships with others, faith-based or secular. We are an accredited charity with the Better Business Bureau. FOCUS + Motor City is our Detroit Center. **Eric Shanburn, Director (248 671-4483 | detroit@focusna.org | focusmotorcity.org)**

COCCTELCOM & MEDIA MINISTRY

There are several branches to the Media Ministry, intended to expand our reach and provide educational and other resources to our Orthodox faithful and the public worldwide. These outlets include: **Good Works** publication, **COCCdetroit.org**, YouTube **COCCTelcom** channel, and the soon to be launched **Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (DOOR)** weekly program on WZNK. Spread the word and please contact **Richard Shebib (248 345-9346 | paschabook@sbcglobal.net)** and see how to help!

CLERGY BROTHERHOOD

The Orthodox Clergy of metropolitan Detroit gather throughout the year as part of the "Saint John Chrysostom" Brotherhood, as a way to share their pastoral experiences, learn, pray, and interact with one another on a unique level. All priests and deacons in canonical order are invited and encouraged to take part. The president of the Clergy Brotherhood, also serves as Spiritual Advisor to the COCC and other affiliated groups. Please contact **Fr Laurence Lazar (248 569-4833 | frlazar@hotmail.com)**



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OCW)

The Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan has members from various jurisdictions of Canonical Orthodox churches in metropolitan Detroit. Educational programs are presented monthly, and a summer retreat is also held. The charitable purpose is fulfilled primarily by collecting food / paper products then distributed to those in need. New clothing and other items requested by Children's Hospital of Michigan are also collected. Annual observances of its founding are celebrated in February with a luncheon and election of a Board of Directors. For further information, contact **President Mary Ann Dadich (586 775-4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com)**.

ORTHODOX VISITATION MINISTRY (OVMD)



The Orthodox Visitation Ministry of Detroit is an effort to help parishes keep in contact with the elderly, shut-in, or otherwise disabled members who cannot be physically active in their community. Their motto is "Sharing Christ's Love by Visiting with a Friend", reminding these brothers and sisters in the Faith that they are not forgotten by their Church. It is a simple but meaningful program that can be adopted by any parish wishing to benefit from it. Contact **Karen Todorov or Gail Razook (248 345-9346 | orthodoxvisitationdetroit@gmail.com)**.

BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT MOSES

The Detroit Chapter of the Brotherhood of Saint Moses the Black (the Ethiopian) exists primarily as an outreach to those seeking the True Faith of the Orthodox Church. As the Church finds deep roots in the lands of Africa, the BSMB strive to make it known and understood in America. **Sharon Gomulka (248 477-6411 | bsmb-detroit@att.net)** serves as Chair for the Detroit Chapter.

Are you, or is someone in your family a college / university student? The Orthodox Christian Fellowship is a registered student group at over 200 colleges and universities.

Statistics show that a staggering 60% of students may not return to active church involvement once they leave for college. OCF is an avenue which can help change this! Locally, there are groups at University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan State University, Oakland University, and Grand



Valley State University. *With your help, this year, the COCC is working to reactivate the group at Wayne State University and start one at UM Dearborn, and EMU! More information will be published soon, but if YOU are a current or incoming student at any of these schools, or would like to help us, please simply drop an email via: www.coccdetroit.org in the "contact" section.*

Grow in your Faith with new friends during the college years... you will be glad you did!



COCCTELCOM We invite you to visit our

COCC YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com)! Simply key in "COCCTELCOM" to view a variety of features on living our Orthodox Faith, the community, current issues, COCC and other parish events, and more. A few of our clergy have already volunteered — we hope more will step forward and contribute — it's a wonderful outreach effort and we are happy to come to you and film, edit, produce, and publish! The channel's inventory is updated regularly, so check in often.

If you have a suggestion for an event or a subject that could be filmed and featured on COCCTELCOM, please contact us (248 345-9346)!



The Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan

"Zoe for Life", a program to prevent abortions and help women in crisis pregnancy, was the topic presented by the OCW at its April gathering. The event took place at Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church in Dearborn Heights where Fr Romey Rosco is the parish priest. Fr Michael Butler, pastor of Holy Transfiguration parish in Livonia, was the featured speaker. He described various aspects of "Zoe's" work — a program that provides emotional support, legal and professional counseling, referrals to helpful organizations, and help in finding Orthodox families to adopt, if the mother chooses.

"Zoe for Life" was started by women in the Cleveland, Ohio area, and endorsed by the local clergy association there. Recently, a group from Transfiguration parish visited them and are in the process of organizing the first "chapter" of Zoe for Life here in the Detroit area. This effort is open to ALL who wish to be a part.

Our next presentation and speaker series will be at Holy Transfiguration parish in Livonia (May 16, 10am). We are deviating from the usual Monday evening schedule in order to try and accommodate more people's schedules. Fr Paul Jannakos from St Mary Magdalene parish in Fenton, will speak on "Who Are We as Orthodox Christians, Especially Compared to the New-Age Mega Churches".

As always, new members are welcome! Contact the OCW (information on previous page) to learn more.



The Detroit Orthodox Community has a history of over 100 years! Over the decades, most parishes have left the "old neighborhoods" and venerable original structures. Some have sadly closed their doors, while others are more recently founded. Whatever the case, your history is our history, so please contact Mary Ann Dadich (586 775 4799, mdadich811@gmail.com) for more information.

Help us preserve and share our rich spiritual and cultural heritage in our great city. Let's share our pride and history, keeping our past alive for future generations!

FOCUS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

MOTOR + CITY

Looking for a way to get involved with FOCUS? Contact us to inquire about any of the opportunities listed below. Help us as we expand our reach to our brothers and sisters in Detroit who are in need and let us live out our prayer in the Great Litany of every liturgical service... "For this City..."

- Help us **plan a fundraising event** to support our ministries (Maybe Wine Tasting, Golf Tourney, Auction, Dinner, Concert etc. Have an idea?)
- Coordinate a group of 6-12 others and **Cook and serve 125 meals** on an open Sunday from 1:15-3:15pm in SW Detroit.
- Join our Garden Team in caring for and expanding our **community vegetable and fruit garden** in SW Detroit.
- Sign up to help give out new athletic shoes to Detroit school kids on Belle Isle at the **Back to School Fair** in August.
- Help us sort, pack and deliver **backpacks of weekend food** for needy school children in SW Detroit every Thursday during the school year.
- Join our email list for occasional **Saturday Workday projects** in SW Detroit
- Conduct a **food pantry or hygiene drive**
- Gather a group together to **make meat and cheese sandwiches** for our weekday community lunch.
- Come down and help us **sort and organize clothing donations** sometime

www.focusmotorcity.org + Detroit@focusna.org + 248-671-4483

"A Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve"

DIGITAL MEDIA & PASTORAL CARE EVENT

[ATHENS, GREECE] - The 1st International Conference on Digital Media and Orthodox Pastoral Care took place May 7-9 in Athens. 72 speakers took part (clergy and laity), with many specialists in Internet use from 21 countries.

The proceedings of the conference were held under the auspices of His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch and had the blessing of the local metropolitan, His Eminence Pavlos of Glyfada.

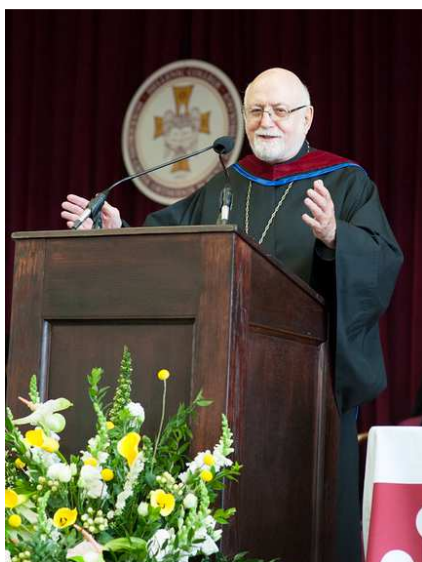
A great many issues were raised at the conference regarding the use of the Internet, which is a great human achievement, a means and a tool for our convenience. This means can certainly be used so that the word of God 'can make speed and bear fruit'. At the sessions and round table discussions of these three days, note was taken of the problems and dangers created by imprudent use, but, at the same time, the positive side was also emphasized.

In particular, on the one hand mention was made of the negative aspects of abuse, misuse and the unrealistic expectations aroused by even normal use of the modern digital means of communication and information.

HOLY CROSS PRESIDENT HONORED

[Brookline MA] - The 73rd Commencement weekend at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology was both celebratory and reflective as many gathered to pay tribute to the Rev Nicholas Triantafilou for 15 years of exemplary service as president of the institution.

Making the commencement exercises more memorable for all attendees was the conferral of an honorary degree Doctor of Theology to Fr Triantafilou. In accepting the honorary degree of Doctor of Theology honoris causa from Archbishop Demetrios, Fr Triantafilou began by saying,

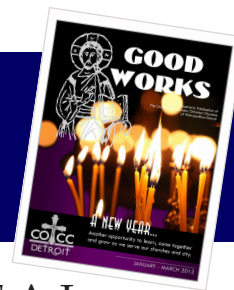


"It is humbling to receive this degree from where I attended and started my ministry. I wear this hood for all graduates past and present." In closing, he addressed the graduates pastorally by saying, "What we have as Orthodox Christians is not to be owned, but to be shared. Share the wealth!"

"Truly a unique magazine — I don't think any Orthodox council in the country can say they have something like this to help us further our work!"

"Outstanding publication! It's really amazing how profession and informative each issue is!"

YOU CAN HELP US!



ANNUAL APPEAL

Our "Good Works" Publication is a labor intensive effort of love and joy. Our goal is to provide a FREE, bi-monthly resource of articles, photographs, educational material, announcements, and other information for Orthodox Christians, and the public here in Detroit.

We grateful for the positive comments received, and, as always, welcome your comments, submissions (and even constructive critiques).

If you have found merit in the "Good Works", or other aspects of the COCC, we hope you will find it in your heart to support us with a donation at this once-a-year appeal. Your contribution will help with expenses, and enable us to expand our publication and the ministries of the COCC. Simply fill out and return the card below with your gift and proper postage in the enclosed envelope. *Thank you and may God bless you!*



GOOD WORKS Appeal + Survey

NAME(s) _____

EMAIL(s) _____

PHONE (_____) _____

Please accept my gift of: \$100 \$50 \$25

(payable to: COCC Detroit) _____

Please check any area that you may be interested in:

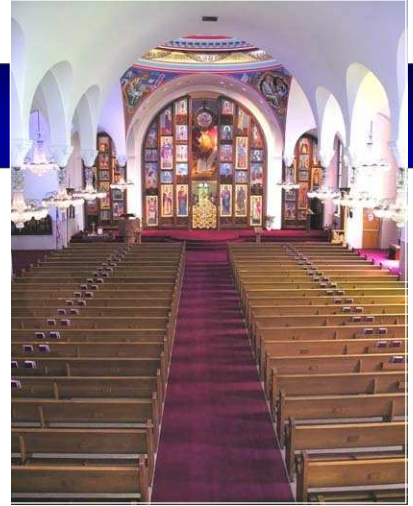
- Choir Poor & Needy Youth & Young Adults
 Outreach Food Pantry Other _____

Comments regarding "Good Works" or the COCC are welcome:

Return this clipping with your donation to:
 COCC Good Works, c/o 18405 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield MI 48075

PARISH SPOTLIGHT...

ST CLEMENT OHRIDSKI CHURCH



ST CLEMENT OHRIDSKI MACEDONO-BULGARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Bulgarian Orthodox Diocese of the USA
19600 Ford Rd, Dearborn MI 48128
phone 313 271-3110 |
www.stclementchurch.net

In the early years of the 20th century, a large number of Bulgarian and Macedonian immigrants were attracted to the Detroit area by jobs in the rapidly growing auto industry. These first immigrants worshipped at Russian or Greek churches.

In 1927, Protoprezviter Dr Krustyu Tsenoff, a missionary priest, came to Detroit. The Macedonians accepted Fr Tsenoff as their spiritual guide and the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church as their ecclesiastical authority. Our charter members, together with Fr Tsenoff, founded the first Detroit-based Macedonian-Bulgarian parish named Holy Trinity. The first services were held at St John Episcopal Church downtown. In 1929, the new parish built its first church, on 25th Street, near Michigan Avenue. The Liturgy was celebrated every Sunday and Feast Day.

In 1932, Fr Velik Karadjoff organized the Ladies' Club. It appeared for a short time that the new community was thriving. But during the Great Depression the parish was unable to meet the mortgage payment. The church was foreclosed and listed for sale, and the parish was dissolved. Soon after, the Macedonian Political Organization (MPO) "Fatherland" purchased the church properties. On February 17, 1935 the parish was reorganized under the name St Clement Ohridski Macedono-Bulgarian Ortho-

dox Church. Fr George Nicoloff arrived from Bulgaria to lead the newly organized parish that year, and by 1963, plans were being laid for the construction of a new church on Ford Rd in Dearborn, where the church now stands. However, an unfortunate split led to the departure of Fr Nicoloff and several members. Over the years, many have worked to heal these wounds.

The parishioners who remained built a large, three-domed cathedral-like church with Sunday School classrooms and two halls. The cornerstone was laid in 1966 by Metropolitan Andrey. This marked a new beginning for St Clement.

In 1968 Fr Panayot Pamukov became the Parish Priest. He led a long period of growth, and during his tenure, the church was consecrated in 1976, and the mortgage retired two years later. In 1978, our parish hosted Patriarch Maxim as he visited North America.

Today, the parish is led by Fr Slavcho Panev. An extensive repair / restoration plan is currently being completed, and the parish hopes for a strong future.



ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

St Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church

Founded 1981

www.stvladimiraami.org

9900 Jackson Rd, Dexter

V Rev Fr Gregory Joyce

*Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America
Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia*



Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church

www.nativitygochurch.org

39851 W 5 Mile Rd, Plymouth

Office of priest currently vacant

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis
of Detroit*



Holy Ascension Serbian Orthodox Church

Founded 1965

4337 W Jefferson Ave, Ecorse

Very Rev Miroslav Markovic

*Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New
Gracanica Midwestern America*



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Lunch for the Hungry is served Sundays at 2pm, Sts Peter & Paul Hall (3810 Gilbert St, Detroit). Contact Focus Motor City to help.

A Bible-Study class is offered every Wednesday at 7:30pm, St Stevan Decanski Serbian Church (14235 E 11 Mile, Warren — 696 Service Dr). All are welcome to take part in this Free class.

JUNE

- 1 July - August Good Works Submission deadline
- 5-7 Ya'soo Greek Festival
St Nicholas Greek Church, Ann Arbor
- 6 Romanian-American Heritage Festival
2pm-midnight: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
- 8-28 Lent of Sts Peter & Paul
- 9 COCC Monthly Meeting,
7pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 11-14 Michigan Sahara Fun Fest
St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- 14 Church School Recognition Day
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 15 OCW Speaker Series: "Friendship versus Fellowship"
7pm: St Mark Church, Rochester Hills
- 19-21 Greek Festival
Assumption Greek Church, Grand Blanc
- 21 Fathers Day
- 23 Church School Field Trip to "Michigan Adventure" Park
St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, Detroit
- 26-28 Opa!Fest
St Nicholas Greek Church, Troy
- 24 + Nativity of St John the Baptist
Patronal Feast Liturgy
10:00am St John Greek Church, Sterling Hts
- 28 Patronal Feast Banquet
1:00pm: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
- 29 + Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
Patronal Feast Liturgy
10:30am: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts

JULY

- 2 + Prince Stephen the Great and Holy (Romania)
- 4 Independence Day (USA)
- 14 COCC Monthly Meeting
7pm: St George Antiochian Church, Troy
- 16-19 MEFGOX 68th Convention
Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Church, Westland
- 18 OCW Annual Retreat
Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction
- 20 + Holy Prophet Elijah
- 26 Annual Romanian-American Family Picnic
1pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

Unless otherwise noted, Saints listed are based on New Calendar

FMC - FOCUS Motor City (Orthodox Detroit Outreach) sponsored event

OCW - Orthodox Christian Women sponsored event

Parishes are encouraged to submit calendars to us!

SECRETARY NEEDED!



The COCC is looking for someone to fill the role of Secretary for our organization. Although an essential position, the work load is minimal (meeting minutes, database, basic written / emailed correspondence). **Please, consider volunteering! Call Richard Shebib (248 345-9346). We hope to fill this important role immediately.**

"Do not ever say:
'These beggars annoy me!' So many millions of men live on earth and all are beggars before the Lord;



emperors as well as laborers, the wealthy as well as servants, all are beggars before the Lord...
and the Lord never said: "These beggars annoy me!" - St Nikolaj Velimirovic

GOOD WORKS

MAY-JUN 2015



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Telephone 248 569-4833

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